



Citizens Clean Elections Commission

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CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION PARTNERS WITH KAET-TV (PBS) TO BROADCAST 2006 STATEWIDE CANDIDATE DEBATE SERIES

PHOENIX (December 19, 2005) – The Citizens Clean Elections Commission (Commission), the state agency that administers the Citizens Clean Elections Act, today announced its partnership with PBS affiliate *KAET-TV* to broadcast all of the Commission sponsored debates during the 2006 election season. KAET will be onsite to film all of the candidate debates for the statewide and legislative races. The station will broadcast several debates live, and with all debate videos available for download on the KAET Web site (www.kaet.asu.edu). The Commission will also archive the videos on its Web site (www.azcleanelections.gov).

“Through the broadcast of Commission sponsored debates we hope to encourage civic participation and to educate citizens about statewide and legislative elections,” said Scott Wallin, business development manager for KAET-TV. “KAET has always strived to provide programming that fosters public dialogue and engages Arizonans in our state’s public affairs.”

With more than 1.7 million viewers each week, KAET consistently ranks among the most-viewed public television stations per capita in the country. In the past, KAET has broadcasted portions of debates or the debates in specific races; however, this is the first time that all statewide and legislative candidate debates are being filmed.

“The partnership with KAET-TV further demonstrates the Commission’s commitment to getting citizens involved in the political process,” said Michael Becker, voter education manager for the Commission. “The Clean Elections Act provides opportunities for voters to gain access to candidates running for office, and with the involvement of KAET, we are able to reach out to a larger audience at each debate.”

This is the fourth major election for which the Commission has hosted the candidate debates since it was created by the voter-initiated Act in 1998. The Commission works with other organizations to sponsor professional, fair and nonpartisan candidate debates for each statewide race, including: governor, secretary of state, attorney general, treasurer, superintendent of public instruction, corporation commission and mine inspector, as well each legislative district race including: Senate and House of Representatives.

The Commission’s primary and general election debates are open to both Clean Elections candidates (participating candidates) and those who are not participating in the Clean Elections program. However, participating candidates are required to participate in the debates, ensuring that the constituents in that district have an opportunity to hear the candidate's platform on a variety of public policy issues.

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***Citizens Clean Election Commission Partners with KAET-TV (PBS)
Add One***

The Commission is still seeking sponsors for some of the candidate debates. Organizations that would like more information, or are interested in participating as a debate sponsor, should contact Michael Becker or Paula Ortiz at the Commission office at: 1-877-631-8891.

About the Citizens Clean Elections Commission

The Citizens Clean Elections Act, which was passed by voters in 1998, created a new campaign financing system that provides full public funding to qualified candidates who agree to abide by Citizens Clean Elections Commission guidelines. Candidates for statewide and legislative offices are eligible to participate in the public funding program.

To qualify for funding, participating candidates must adhere to strict spending and contribution limits and gather \$5 qualifying contributions from constituents who are registered voters. Participating candidates also agree to attend required debates.

For more information visit the Citizens Clean Elections Commission website: www.azcleanelections.gov

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